

# Bloomfield Gazette.

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CHAS. M. DAVIS, A. M., Editors.

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## Bloomfield Gazette.

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### ROMANCE OF TRUTH.

#### An Original Story of the Revolution.

BY ONE OF THE EDITORS.

On the banks of the Pocantico—a lovely stream pursuing its sinuous course for several miles beneath the picturesque shades of Sleepy Hollow, and entering the Hudson at Tarrytown, stands the ancient, castle-like, stone building known as the Beekman Homestead. Its venerable occupant has lately, after a sojourn of nearly a century, paid Nature's last debt, and descended to a peaceful tomb. Some thirty years ago, retaining the full exercise of her vigorous faculties to the advanced age of ninety-four, Mrs. Cornelia Beekman's society was courted by old and young. Thither the writer, for many years her next neighbor, frequently resorted, delighted to listen to her vivacious conversation, and her spirited narrations of scenes with which she had been conversant during her long and eventful life; for she was endowed with fine colloquial powers, and a retentive memory—and, indeed, living as she did on this "neutral ground," amidst the scenes of the Revolution, her opportunity for intelligence of the times could hardly be surpassed. She could tell to breathless listeners many deeds of patriotism unrecorded, because the actors were unknown to fame, that might well deserve to be emblazoned on the historic page; and the most interesting account I ever heard of the capture of Andre, I had but second-hand from one of the captors through this venerable old lady.

I have chosen this medium to perpetuate an early incident of the Revolution, well deserving permanent record. I had the facts from the lips of the venerable person above named, who being then on a visit to New-York, was an eye-witness of part of the transactions, and well acquainted with all the principal facts. A few preliminary remarks will not be out of place.

The opposition to the oppressive edicts of the English Parliament was nearly simultaneous and universal throughout the colonies. The colonists, having rendered themselves odious to the government at home, there remained no alternative but determined resistance, or obsequious slavery. There was no hesitation in making the choice; for the sentiment of the great American orator touched a chord that vibrated in every patriotic bosom: "Give me liberty or give me death." The bloody scene at Lexington, while it sent dismay into the British Councils, aroused the spirit and nerved the heart of every true American, as the tidings of that eventual skirmish were heralded through the land. It is difficult to conceive of any thing more interesting than would be a detailed account of the reception of that intelligence at the different hamlets and cottages throughout the country; or indeed, of any truer index than that would furnish of the character and spirit of the American people at that day.

In the city of New York the alarming news arrived on Sunday, and sent a thrill throughout the community. The "vigilance committee," supported by the citizens, instantly repaired to the King's Storehouse, and forcing the doors, took thence all the arms and munitions of war, and distributing them freely among the people, charged them to hold themselves ready to avenge their slaughtered countrymen.

But one of the most interesting scenes was connected with the proceedings of the mechanics in that city. A few days after

the receipt of the information of the sanguinary transactions of Lexington, a meeting of the various artisans was called; and indeed it was a solemn meeting, portending momentous consequences. The convention was well attended, not by the young and reckless merely—the man of three-score years, the old veteran from the shop, whose hoary locks and iron-frame betokened the assiduous labors of many anxious years was there; the middle-aged, whose intrepid countenance declared his conscious responsibility, and the undaunted purpose of his soul, was there; and there, too, was a fair representation from youthful manhood, whose flushed faces and fiery eyes indicated the courageous as well as the amorous heart. That meeting might have betrayed to the arrogant government at home, had they deigned to regard such indications, the spirit of a down-trodden people, fermenting and diffusing itself like leaven through the mass, and preparing them to cope successfully with disciplined armies, well-appointed fleets, and whatever influences wealth and artifice might furnish with which to overwhelm them.

When the meeting was duly organized by the appointment of appropriate officers, an elderly man, by occupation a cooper, rose without trepidation, and addressed the Chairman: He said that nearly three-score years had whitened his locks, and while he had attended closely to his own business, he had also been a close observer of passing events. He had noticed the high-handed assumption of the government over the sea, as well as her actual and repeated invasions of our own dearest rights, for a number of years past; indeed he had long apprehended the crisis, which, he rejoiced, had at length arrived. Old as he was, the appalling intelligence from the ensanguined plains of Lexington had fired his soul and nerved his arm for daring deeds, as in times of old, when he had fought the savage red man. For three days past, he said, every stroke of his adze and hammer had echoed to the name of that proud battle-field, and seemed to say deliberately, the sound being mightily significant of the sense, "Remember Lexington." "Remember Lexington," and his shaving-knife, with like significance, had indignantly uttered, "Brit-ish-con-ards," till he had thrown down the knife in disgust, and he was now ready for any sacrifice his country might call upon him to make.

He sat down amidst the silent admiration of that company, for the emotion was too deep for words or noisy applause. A sturdy blacksmith then arose, and in a most earnest manner gave utterance to language and sentiments hardly to be expected from such a source. He had felt the most lively emotions, and the warmest sympathies for his brethren at the East; he honored their spirit, and confessed to a feeling something like envy that they should have had the first opportunity at the villainous red-coat. Like his neighbor Penfold, who had just sat down, he said his business too, had continually reminded him of the calamity—he would rather say, perhaps, blessing, that threatened our country. His bellows continued to blow its blasts in obedience to the pressure, but it seemed to utter strange sounds; from morn to night he could hear the dolorous cries of "wae-eh," "wae-eh," "wae-eh," his anvil still rung to the stroke of the well-plied sledge, but the most piercing cries of "wae-geance," "wae-geance," would salute his ears the live-long day.

Next an energetic carpenter by the name of Twitchings, took the floor. "Tis strange," said he, "how similar is the experience of all true patriots! Methinks the spirit of liberty must impregnate the air we all breathe." His planes had a voice ever since the tidings were received from Lexington the preceding Sunday, uttering with portentous significance the ominous words—"slaves!" "slaves!" "slaves!" (slaves); and his saws had articulated with unmistakable distinctness, "the tyrant," "the tyrant," "the tyrant." He was ready, he said, for the sacrifice, and would gladly immolate himself, if necessary, upon the altar of his country's liberty.

He sat down, but the practical eloquence of these hardy sons of toil, had all the time been working like leaven upon the minds of the hearers. Twitchings had no sooner taken his seat than every man, electrified by a simultaneous impulse, rose to his feet, and a spontaneous cry of "Down with the tyrants," "Down with the tyrants," burst from every mouth.

The enthusiasm of that hour was adequate to any emergency, and pregnant with terror to all opposition. Other speeches were made, practical, impassioned and right to the point, but I may not occupy space to detail further of the proceedings save the unanimous resolves enforced by nine hearty and heartfelt cheers, that, one and all, they would suspend their vocations and take up arms in defence of their liberties: To prove their sincerity it was determined formally to bury their implements of industry till peace and liberty should be established.

The next day was to witness the denouement, but to many anxious, sleepless expectants it seemed that it would never come; the tardy day, however, at length arrived. Then there might have been seen in the vicinity of the "Bowling Green" a large gathering of mechanics, constantly increasing by accessions from every direction through the various streets that converge at that park. Each one brought a selection from his proper implements of business. About mid-day a committee charged with the duty arrived with an ample bier supporting a coffin of unusual dimensions, designed to receive the immolated tools of mechanics. One and another stepped up and laid his tools in the coffin, and when it would hold no more, others still desirous of consecrating their service to the holy cause of independence insisted on burying their utensils, also, and the ample bier beside the coffin was loaded with the additional offering. The bier was then placed on an open carriage escorted by twelve worthy bearers; and an immense procession of resolute men was at once formed.

Though the notice had been short the interest of the occasion was intense; the streets were thronged, not with curious and heartless spectators, but with those who had come for the purpose of encouraging the spirit of resistance. There were aged fathers and mothers upon whom the star of hope had now at length dawned. How their sparkling eyes betrayed the gladness of their hearts, as they saw their sons thus committing themselves to the resistance of tyranny! There were fond wives and loving sisters, whose changeful countenances, ed with tears, most vividly portrayed the conflicting emotions of their hearts. And there were joyful youths, whose resolute countenances seemed to say—"If father or brother falls I'll take his place." Oh, there were no careless observers there! Even the minions of power watched with trembling this demonstration of patriotic feeling. It was no reckless move gotten up for effect, nor a mere bravado show of daring; it was the current of a strong tide, setting in the direction of liberty which nothing could resist. The very bone and sinew of the land, most sacred rights, and countenances encouraged by friends, had come to the desperate and firm resolve to consecrate themselves to the work of independence.

This was indeed a solemn procession—and weighty thoughts were pondered by those heroic sons of toil. As it moved along with funeral pomp, methinks a Briton's heart might well have quailed in view of the brow and displayed in the firm tread of those undaunted patriots.

On reaching the place of interment, the which had swelled by constant accessions during the march to many thousands, now deployed around the newly dug grave. The coffin was lowered to the "last resting place." One of nature's own orators stood upon the hearse, and for half an hour, under the inspiration of the occasion, poured forth a torrent of eloquence in the most enthusiastic and impassioned appeals to patriotism. Terrible was the responsive acclamations on that occasion; encouraging the hearts of the sons of freedom, but bidding ill to the parasites of despotism.

Slowly and resolutely did those valiant sons of toil leave the burial ground to take up arms and hasten to the battle field; many, alas! never to return; but they were prepared for the sacrifice.

That was the spirit that secured our independence. To the sacrifices of our fathers, be it ever remembered, do we owe the inestimable blessings of liberty which we now enjoy.

## Temperance.

Messrs. Editors.—A great deal has been said and written on this subject, but it is a theme that never has and never will grow monotonous to right-minded people. Every one who will consider the subject, will confess to its importance, and its right to be maintained. It cannot be denied that temperance has accomplished a mighty work in our land. Every town, however small, will vindicate the truthfulness of this, but the work is not yet finished, nor will it be as long as human nature is as weak and faltering as to-day.

It is not to be doubted that societies do a certain amount of good, but to meet week after week in lodge rooms and talk on temperance subjects, sing temperance songs, is not going to do all the temperance work—it is the labor outside that is to accomplish much. It is work, daily work, putting your shoulder to the wheel, lending a helping hand to those endeavoring to escape from the mire that surrounds them. If every temperance man and woman could be made to think of the matter in this light, if every minister of the Gospel would proclaim this from his pulpit, if in every school throughout the length and breadth of our land, temperance was held forth as the mighty fulcrum on which the lever of character was to rest, what a different nation would be ours! Hearts that now bleed with wounds caused from arrows driven by loved ones, would be healed. Souls that now stand on the brink of destruction would be hurried back from the foaming abyss.

Have you a friend who has already begun to tread the path of intemperance? Tell him of its dangers, its perils, its insecurities, how it is a way once entered on, is very difficult to turn from. Urge it strongly, leave no stone unturned, no gap in the hedge-way. Tell him it is a road, which at the outset may be bright and flowery, no clouds apparently mar its sunshine, but at the last it "biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." Oh, if every one would do this, if all would pull together, how soon every drunkard would be cured, fewer hearts would be bowed down with grief at witnessing the destruction of both bodies and souls. Reflect on your individual responsibility; no one, however humble, is without an influence. Exert it in this matter. There are few but have opportunities of noting daily, yes, almost hourly, the ravages of intemperance. Can you suffer this to be so and make no exertion to change it? Think of this, ye people; think of your duty to your fellow-man and to your God. Begin to-day, resolved that at least one soul shall, through your instrumentality, be numbered with the saved—saved from a drunkard's life, a drunkard's death.

Young man, would you be respected, honored, influential? Would you have a name great among men? Avoid intemperance. Rest your character on a basis from whose stronghold no enemy can pluck it.

M. D. H. G.

## Educational.

Messrs. Editors.—It is a matter of great surprise to me, that so little attention has heretofore been paid in our schools to the study of *Natural Science*. Parents and teachers seem to think, that a knowledge of Spelling, Reading, Writing, Geography, Grammar, Arithmetic, and perhaps History, are indispensable, and so they are. But if anything more be added it must be Rhetoric, Logic, Algebra, Geometry, Chemistry, Natural Philosophy, Astronomy, Latin, French, German, Music, etc. They seldom think of having children and youth made acquainted with those natural objects which come under their eyes every day, and press themselves importunately upon their attention. In fact, they afford the first natural lessons in object teaching, and therefore would seem the first which should command attention, as their elements may be taught and learned without the knowledge of books, by simple oral instruction.

How few children and youth know even the meaning of the terms Botany, Physiology, Zoology, Entomology, Conchology, Ichthyology, Ornithology, Geology, Mineralogy, etc., though objects which they illustrate, are every day presented to their notice.

What I contend for is this, that object lessons in these branches more easily impart a knowledge of the different departments of natural science, than in any other way, and thus enlarge the field of knowledge, and balance the youthful mind as well as impress upon it the wisdom and goodness of the Creator.

Abstract theory and instruction on these subjects are dry and disgusting to the learner, as the memorizing of the rules of Grammar is to the scholar who knows nothing as yet of their application.

I was deeply impressed with the remark of an intelligent gentleman a short time since. He said: "I have read Lyell and Dana, and all the works on Geology and Mineralogy that I can get hold of, and yet

I know nothing about these sciences by abstract description. I must have the specimens to see how they look." It is the object presented to the eye that teaches the mind more fully, more clearly, than words.

What a shame it is, that youth from ten to fifteen years of age, not to say over that, in roaming over the fields, cannot tell in Botany, an Anemone from a Ranunculus; in Entomology, a Slug from a Beetle; in Conchology, a cone from a Cypress; in Ichthyology, a Pike from a Pickerel; in Ornithology, a Wren from a Sparrow; in Geology, a piece of Syenite from a piece of Granite; in Mineralogy, a piece of Molybdenum from a piece of Graphite, or even a piece of Sulphuret of Iron from Sulphuret of Copper, or either from a piece of Gold; no, not even a specimen of Lignite from one of Anthracite.

I propose from time to time, in your valuable paper (which, by the way, I very much rejoice has been started in our place), if I am able, to illustrate the importance of the study of these branches as a matter of recreation, if for nothing else, in all our schools, public and private, and insisting upon the necessity of making it a "mandatory" as a branch of instruction in the Normal schools of our land, so that every teacher in our various institutions of learning, may not only be able to give more or less instruction in these branches, but to make it binding for them to do it as a duty, a privilege and a pleasure.

EPHRAIM.

## To Bloomfield Capitalists.

Messrs. Editors.—I would beg leave to make a suggestion to our capitalists, which I do from actual knowledge and experience, and that is—the building of small, neat, modern cottages for rental. Say for five hundred dollars per annum, containing from six to nine rooms, and having a small portion of the modern conveniences, with a lot fifty by one hundred and fifty feet. Such houses are in great demand.

Judging from numerous inquiries, I could have named—although not in the business—at least a dozen of such cottages the last spring and summer. They are greatly needed by persons of limited means. Our clerks, book-keepers and those who cannot afford the luxury of a sojourn at the sea-side or mountains, and who are now compelled, through regard for the health of their loved ones, to pay exorbitant board for the seclusion of some country boarding house for a few weeks. If we had homes of this description, they would stay with us the whole year round. That class make valuable citizens, and a community composed of such people is always a prosperous one. It would return a liberal per cent for the money invested, enhance the value of real estate, and improve the social condition of a large part of our community.

The generous offer of our esteemed townsman, Robert Peel, as advertised in your last issue, is in the right direction, and cannot but be noticed with much satisfaction by the community. But would it not be better to go right ahead and complete, say a dozen of such cottages as before named, in time for the spring demand?

## Our Park.

"Way is it that the green is overgrown with weeds?" said a gentleman the other morning, after an absence of twenty years from Bloomfield. "But," added he, without waiting for a reply, "it was always so; and, I suppose, what is every body's business, is never attended to."

Probably this question has been asked by more than one stranger and sojourner, and we will not record the heart-burnings it has cost our own residents. Does all responsibility end here? We think not.

Did the company of Bloomfield boys who forty years ago planted the beautiful elms that are now such an ornament to a border to a wilderness of weeds? May the spirit that prompted public improvements in that day, be transmitted to the present generation. For our pride's sake and for the pleasure it will bring to every eye and heart, let there be a change.

Imagination suggests a fine Park, beautifully graded and neatly enclosed; the work of improvement may then be carried to any extent desired.

We hope at no distant day to see the barren waste which surrounds the Presbyterian Church assume a more attractive appearance than it does at present. Who shall inaugurate these improvements?

[The above came into our hands informally, without introduction or signature. We are happy to give it a place, and to add our emphasis to its regrets about the unsightly and shabby appearance of our Park ground, as well as to its earnest hope that the march and spirit of improvement which are manifesting themselves in other ways, may very soon include this grand old "Common" also. We respectfully invite suggestions on this subject for public consideration.—Editor.]

FORTNIGHTLY.

FIVE CENTS.

the Rocky Mountains is from 10,000 to 12,000 feet. This is the mean height of the immense continental sweep of the Cordillera de la Sierra Madre. It is probable that the average height in Colorado, which is the table-land of the continent, will approach very nearly to 12,000 feet.

## The Great Beauty of Japanese Scenery.

My first sight of Japan was from the deck of the steamer Great Republic, as we sailed up the Bay of Yokohama. The aspect of the country at once charmed us, and this spell never for a moment lost its power, but rather increased in joy, and now remains a vision fair and beautiful in the mind forever.

The mountain-tops were somewhat bare, but embosomed in the numerous cliffs were woods and temples; and farther down, peaks and crags of every variety, all covered with luxuriant vegetation. Far in the distance, Fujiyama appeared—a strange sight—a mighty cone, fourteen thousand feet high, with its apex above the clouds, covered with snow down to a clear, well-defined line, where there was a dark belt, and then the body of the mountain disappeared; so that the whole thing looked like a white triangle resting in the distance, or like some great white triangle, gradually fading away, solemnly, but conspicuously watching over the scene.

Our sail through the inland sea was positively absorbing; headland after headland, islands of all sizes and of every description of contour, situated in all directions, and then the perpetual recurrence of villages after villages, distant residences, and all the diversity of hill and dale, high cultivation, and the richness of nature, absolutely chained us to the deck. I have never seen any scenery to match it. The Straits of Anjer, between Java and Sumatra, the Gilolo passage, the Straits of Singapore, and many others I have sailed through are not for a moment to be compared to it. The harbor of Nagasaki may be said to crown the whole. The entrance on a fine evening is like fairy-land. I have seen no port in the East equal to it for beauty.—Rev. Dr. Williamson.

## An Important Occasion.

This Evangelical Alliance will hold its next session (1873) in New York. It was to have been held there in 1870, but the Franco-Prussian war made its postponement necessary, in order to accommodate the German and French members.

Dr. Schaff has been making arrangements with representative Protestant men of Europe to be present, and it is believed that the session will bring together a greater array of European religious notabilities than has ever been seen in our country, including not a few who are dear to American theologians and scholars.

While it will thus afford special interest to our own countrymen, it will probably be still more interesting to the foreign delegates themselves. They will witness the peculiar development of religious and political life going on here, so unlike anything in most of Europe, and so problematical to European thinkers, especially religious thinkers. They will find that "the voluntary principle" keeps up an energetic, popular, religious spirit here, which is unknown within the European State churches. They will learn that the voluntary liberality of the people gives better sustenance to the clergy than their own national establishments afford, and that the foreign propagation of the common faith, by missions, is more seasonally maintained by our people than by any other—England, perhaps, alone excepted.

The rapidity of intercommunication throughout the land will afford these guests the means of seeing, somewhat, the magnitude of the great territorial heritage which God has given us, and we hope that the New York committee will make thorough preparations for their cheap, or gratuitous, conveyance over the country, even across the continent to the Pacific. It will be an impressive fact for these European scholars and Christians to discover here a land several millions of square miles larger than all Europe, under one government, one flag, with one language, and pre-eminently Protestant in its religion. They will return to their homes with deepened interest for us, and better hopes for religion and liberty throughout the world.—Ketchikan.

## False Eyes.

A French paper gives a detailed account of the manufacture of false eyes in Paris, from which the curious fact appears that the average sale per week of eyes intended for the human eye amounts to 400. One of the leading dealers in this article carries on the business in a saloon of great magnificence. His servant has but one eye, and the effect of any of the eyes wanted by customers is conveniently tried in this servant's head, so that the customer can judge very readily as to the appearance it will produce in his own head. The charge is about \$10 per eye. For the poor, there are second-hand visual organs which have been worn for a time, and exchanged for new ones; they are sold at reduced prices, and quantities are sent off to India and the Sandwich Islands.

## Climate of San Francisco.

It is hot enough on a changeable enough in the interior, but San Francisco seems to have a climate exclusively its own. What would not the poor wretched and blistered New Yorkers have given in August for a few days of such weather as they had here all the time, at a temperature of sixty-five to sixty-eight? Light overcoats are in almost daily demand. Pure air, warm almost the year round by some latitude, and not much more in February than in August. Umbrellas are not needed from April to October. The sun may rise cloudy and cold, and in New York or Boston every one would predict rain; but not so here. And when the rains come, between October and April, it is not with violence—no lightning, no thunder, no tornadoes—but only frequent showers. That is the rainy season.

log hut, in a sequestered valley far up among the mountains of Rockland, near the same place he was born and raised, as the country phrase has it. His father

tible or suppositions mind seemed to forebode some impending evil, though she knew not what. Perhaps she apprehended she might never see her Jesse again. But

this stormy night it would of course be obscurely dark and frightfully dismal. Moreover, wild beasts not unfrequently made their appearance in the mountains, carry-

A rugged examination soon revealed to these practical mountaineers the true state of the case, and also suggested to them what should be done. Two went to

In the march of life, don't heed the order of "right about," when you know you are about right.—Hobbs.

pare with Colorado, or, for that matter, with any Western territory. The mean height of the Alps is from 8,000 to 9,000 feet above the sea. The mean height of